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AIRGRAM**

Department of State

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The Department and other agencies have noted the increase in the number of intellectuals and professional people (physicians, dentists, druggists, teachers and university instructors etc.) among refugees leaving East Germany for West Berlin and the Federal Republic. West German leaders, such as Minister Ernst Lemmer in his statement before the Berlin meeting of the Bundestag have said that these intellectuals and professional people are leaving the Soviet Zone because of increased pressure on them, and their families, especially as to the education of their children. The Department found Bonn despatch 703 most helpful, but in order to assess the situation more fully and to weigh prospective proposals, the Department requests, if possible by the end of November, the following additional specific information. Selective interrogations of a small number of refugees may be required for the first and, perhaps, the second question groups.

1) What are the principle motives for the departure of intellectuals and professional people from the Soviet Zone now? How has this changed over the last year? Has the announced reduction in SED pressure on physicians temporarily eased the urgency of the motivations?

To what extent have those who have recently or who are now defecting from the GDR, actually left their professions? For example, were they already dismissed, from faculties or hospitals, before they fled? If they left after dismissal, to what degree was their motive for leaving due to inability to obtain other employment at similar levels?

What specific educational opportunities are denied their children? Is the content of the education or the opportunity for an education the most significant element?

2) What is happening to the intellectuals who reach West Berlin and the Federal Republic? What percentage held SED or other party membership?

Do the intellectuals feel they are being readily absorbed in the Federal Republic? Had they solicited employment or positions before or at the time of departure from the GDR? Do they believe there are favorable opportunities in their professional fields or in working back into their

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Drafted by:

DRW/CER:JRucht

Airgram transmission and classification approved by:

DRW - F. T. Williamson

Circulation:

Coordinated (in draft) - GER - Mr. McKiernan

CER - Mr. E. Melby

ICD - J. Roland Jacobs

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professional fields in West Germany? Have any become discouraged and returned to the GDR? What has happened to any who have returned to the GDR? Alternatively, are they seeking to emigrate from Germany to other countries?

What is their assessment of the sufficiency of the remaining manpower in their professions or being trained for these professions in the Soviet Zone, especially in the medical-health fields?

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